

Earthquake Report – JAIF

We have been reporting a status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station by summarizing news aired by NHK, which is Japanese national broadcasting company. We regard it as most credible news among many news sources and we are happy to say that NHK's English website has gotten enriched and now you can see movies and English scripts at <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/daily/english/society.html>. Given this situation, we decide to simply place these scripts as it is for the record in case that it will be deleted from the website later, rather than summarizing news as we did.

No. 250: 12:00, October 30

NHK news regarding status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station yesterday and today.

(Fukushima NPP Site)

(Other news)

- Fukushima pollution much larger says French report
- Govt compiles plan for contaminated soil and waste
- Oil stove imports mark sharp increase
- Japan, India to work for nuclear energy deal

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● Fukushima pollution much larger says French report

French researchers say the amount of radioactive cesium that has leaked from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the ocean is 20 times larger than the plant operator estimated.

The French government's nuclear research institute, IRSN, released its contamination report on Saturday.

It calculates that 27.1 thousand terabecquerels of radioactive cesium 137 had leaked into the ocean as of the middle of July. The largest amount was released by early April from a pit at the Number 2 reactor and other plant facilities.

The French institute says the amount is about 20 times the estimate made by Tokyo Electric Power Company.

The report says the nuclear accident caused significant water contamination, but radioactive substances will be dispersed by ocean currents.

Nevertheless, the institute is calling for ongoing testing of marine products as leakage from the nuclear facility continues to pollute the nearby ocean.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 05:44 +0900 (JST)

● Govt compiles plan for contaminated soil and waste

The Japanese environment ministry has come up with a plan to deal with the radioactive soil and waste generated by the disabled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The waste will be temporarily stored in Fukushima Prefecture for about 3 years before being transferred to final disposal places outside the prefecture over the next 30 years.

The plan says the central and local governments will choose sites for temporary storage while seeking the understanding of local residents.

The ministry hopes to begin construction of the storage sites some time in fiscal 2014 and start transferring the soil and waste in fiscal 2015.

The ministry estimates that about 3,100 cubic meters of soil and waste will be stored in the temporary sites.

It plans to burn dead leaves to lower the volume of the waste that needs to be stored.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 01:19 +0900 (JST)

● Oil stove imports mark sharp increase

The number of oil stoves imported into Tokyo is on the increase amid concerns of power shortages this winter. This comes as a number of nuclear plants have been shut down for inspections and other reasons.

The Tokyo Customs Office says 26,561 oil stoves arrived in the port of Tokyo in September.

That was 3.8 times the amount compared to the same time last year. It was also a record monthly high for oil stove imports since statistics began to be kept in 1979. Most of the imports were from China. The total cost amounts to about 140 million dollars.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 01:19 +0900 (JST)

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●Japan, India to work for nuclear energy deal

Japan and India have agreed to proceed with negotiations to conclude an atomic energy agreement. Talks on the matter have been stalled since the March nuclear accident in Fukushima.

Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba met with visiting Indian Foreign Minister S. M. Krishna in Tokyo on Saturday.

At a joint news conference after the talks, Gemba said the two countries agreed to strengthen working-level discussions to conclude the agreement at the request of India.

Gemba said he told India that Japan will provide full information about investigations into the nuclear accident and the government's efforts to ensure nuclear safety.

He added he also asked India to understand Japan's position on nuclear disarmament and non-nuclear proliferation.

If concluded, the bilateral nuclear agreement would allow Japan to provide nuclear-related technology to India, which is planning to build more nuclear plants.

The two ministers also said their countries will expand trade and investment, and promote a joint development project of rare earth metals, following a bilateral economic partnership agreement that came into force in August.

The two countries will also increase the number of regular mutual visits by their leaders and cabinet ministers.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 01:18 +0900 (JST)

End